

# Action Line

## Policy on body piercing What is the base policy on body piercing?

Currently there is no base policy. Right now, I consider it a fad, just like long hair was in the '60s. I don't think it's a long-term threat to the health of the Air Force or our readiness, and I am sure it will soon pass.

In the interim, I consider body piercing unprofessional and "unmilitary" in appearance, and have also heard that it has caused some significant medical problems with some individuals.

Whether on or off duty, we chose this way of life because we wanted to be a cut above -- a part of a professional team in which no one person is "better" than another, or no one person is given more "rights" than another. Actually, we've somewhat shunned people who try to bring attention to themselves over the identity of the squadron or group. As members of the U.S. Air Force, we've all elected to give up some of our personal rights to form a stronger bond. That's what distinguishes us

from the second-rate outfits that we've all seen! With this in mind, I discourage military members from getting pierced beyond established standards. I think it detracts from our professional image.

## Expand emergency room

*Editor's note: This is a follow up to an action line published in the Sept. 27, 1996 "Jet 48."*

### Can you expand the size of the emergency room or have an additional location with an intercom to inform patients of their turn?

The emergency room staff will use the intercom to call patients waiting in radiology overflow area. Patients who choose to wait in the radiology waiting room should notify the emergency room staff be-

fore leaving the emergency waiting area. For more information, call the 48th Medical Group patient advocate at Ext. 2840.

*The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions, or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call Ext. 2324, fax (Ext. 5367), e-mail (Action\_Line), distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48 FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09464-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Bldg. 1085). You may remain anonymous; however, to receive a reply, leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number, and full APO mailing address. Names will be kept confidential.*



48th Fighter Wing commander

# What is a designated driver?

By Col. Steve Paladini  
48th Fighter Wing vice commander

One month ago, at 48th Fighter Wing "designated driver" was apprehended for driving under the influence of alcohol. So what's a designated driver anyhow? Is it the least drunk among those drinking, the drunk who weighs the most, the responsible driver

that's just going to have a few beers, or the responsible driver who drinks no alcohol at all?

If you chose anything other than the last option you are wrong.

The principle is simple: one individual refrains from drinking alcoholic beverages to assure safe transportation home for the other guests. At the next day's or week's party, social gathering, or trip to the local pub, another person volunteers and the responsibility rotates.

In Sweden and the United Kingdom, where the practice originated, designated

drivers place their car keys in their empty beverage glasses so they aren't served. Some drinking establishments have a policy of serving free soft drinks and juices to the designated driver, including all 48th Fighter Wing and 100th Air Refueling Wing services facilities.

Risking your career, a large fine, and most importantly your life or the life of an innocent victim is not worth it.

So if you are out drinking with your friends, have a designated driver. If you are the designated driver, live up to your responsibilities and don't drink any alcohol at all.

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<http://www.lakenheath.af.mil/jet48.htm>

## On the cover

Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

Jacqueline, Kira, SSgt. Francis and Lisa Cantwell play a game of Monopoly. See page 15 for information on how the Air Force Assistance Fund has helped the Cantwells.



Lakenheath -- Mildenhall -- Feltwell

## Great American Drinkout

Col. Doug Richardson, 48th Fighter Wing commander, and the wing's leadership challenge each member of the community to abstain from drinking alcohol from 12:01 a.m. today through noon Saturday.

"This can be our silent yet active protest against the problems alcohol abuse can cause," said Richardson.

In support of the drinkout the following facilities offer these specials beginning today:

- ☐ The Liberty Club and officer's club will serve free nonalcoholic beer and nonalcoholic frozen drinks throughout March.
- ☐ The rod and gun club will serve nonalcoholic beer and nonalcoholic frozen drinks throughout the weekend.
- ☐ Facilities at all three bases serve free beverages to designated drivers throughout the year.